

What is a Filibuster? Topic of Debate in 1960 and 2005

In an August 7, 1960, *Voice of America* program called "Have you a Question," Senator Smith was asked to respond to a Bermuda listener who asked, "What is a filibuster?"

"A filibuster is a parliamentary device by which a minority of Senators can delay passage of a bill which the majority favors. The minority simply extends the debate by getting parliamentary control of the floor. Then they refuse to relinquish the floor until the bill is either dropped or altered. As long as the minority members keep talking, they can continue to debate the measure indefinitely. It is unique to the United States Senate. The practice of it is nearly as old as Congress itself. The first filibuster of which we have any record occurred in 1780 over the question of a new location for the national legislature. The House of Representatives had decided on Philadelphia. In the Senate there was a tie vote. One Senator was missing because of illness. So the Senators from Massachusetts and South Carolina talked and talked until the sick member could be brought on a stretcher to the Senate Chamber to break the tie vote.

The word, filibuster, is a name originally given to the buccaneers, a group of English, French, Dutch and Portuguese pirates of the seventeenth century. It was probably derived from the Dutch "vrijbouter" meaning freebooter, or pirate. Just when, exactly, the word acquired its present-day meaning in America is not known. It has slowed down certain important legislation. But over the years it has not seriously hampered the work of the Senate, because it is not often employed. It is permitted because it does give an organized minority the opportunity of making their views known, not only in the Senate but to the public at large. Sometimes a minority can use the filibuster to obtain a compromise in legislation. It can always be used as a tactic to delay passage of certain legislation. But a filibuster is used more often in an attempt to arouse public opinion. Until recently, there was no way of defeating a filibuster. Today, however, Senate rules provide that extended debate will be brought to a close, and the legislation acted upon, if two-thirds of the Senators so vote."

In a January 16, 1953, **Washington and You** column by Senator Smith, she wrote, "Before one

jumps to the conclusion that a democracy operates on the basis that a simple majority rules, he should take a look at the Bill of Rights that protects the minority from the majority. The true liberal is supposedly for the minority and, therefore, must have some respect for the protection of the two-thirds majority requirement for the minority. Otherwise, why should we have the requirement that it takes a two-thirds vote to override a Presidential veto? Certainly in that case, the two-thirds requirement is for the protection of the Executive Branch of the government—for the smallest of minorities—for one, the President of the United States. It protects the President from having a simple majority of the Congress force down his throat legislation that he opposes.

Some speak of tyranny by the minority under the two-thirds rule just as much as tyranny by the majority under a simple majority rule. Surely if the issue is vital enough, there will be enough persuasion in it to get two-thirds of the Senators to vote to break a filibuster holding up a vote on that issue."

UPI March, 1960, news photo—Ready for the Siege—MCS selects a banana for a snack in her office as the around-the-clock debate starts on civil rights legislation. Besides the food on her desk, she has bedclothes piled up on hand if she decides to take a nap in her office during the debate.

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Researchers Visit

Members of Shane Gower's AP history class from Maranacook Community High School were immersed in research on April 5th. Each year, Mr. Gower brings his students so that they might have an opportunity to learn a bit about hands-on research in an archival facility.

University of Maine student, Dirck Storms, conducted "research to augment information found in the book, No Place for a Woman by Janann Sherman. I am specifically looking for actions by Margaret Chase Smith that influenced Maine legislation and/or Maine law. I am also interested in her role on the Armed Services Committee."

Nicole Turner and four of her friends from Nokomis Regional High School in Newport spent time reviewing the scrapbooks looking for material for a poster board presentation on how and what Margaret Chase Smith did to become "famous." The students copied editorials both criticizing and praising Smith for her efforts.

Ashley Pelletier and Katie Pullyard of Skowhegan Area Middle School came to learn about MCS for their history class. While here, they interviewed Dr. Richards, took digital photos of the residence and Library, and were intrigued to find the letter and actual fishing fly that Katie's uncle, Brady Coulombe, had used to catch a salmon that he presented to Senator Smith in 1991. Katie is shown taking a photo of the fly!

Assistant Professor Nichola Gutgold from Penn State, Lehigh Valley College, is authoring a book, Women's Road to the White House: Five Who Paved the Way. Recipient of an Ada Leeke Research Grant, Nikki visited the Library to review material in preparation for her chapter on Margaret Chase Smith. Others featured in the book include Shirley Chisholm, Patricia Schroeder, Elizabeth Dole, and Carol Moseley Braun.

Bob Rosenthal of Shunpike Audio is involved with the Kennebec-Chaudiere Audio Tour Project which will feature stories, sounds, and experiences of the region, capturing its sense of place and history. The Kennebec-Chaudiere Corridor covers the area from the northern woods of Jackman to the tidewaters of the Kennebec in Bath. Shunpike's motto, "Avoiding super highways for the pleasure of driving on backroads," strikes at the tourist who wishes to view the heritage of Maine through thoroughfares other than turnpikes.

Laura Ozment Schenck of the Maine Public Broadcasting Network spent a great deal of time reviewing audio/video tapes, scanning photographs, and reviewing material for a public television history segment regarding the 1950s, Senator Smith's "Declaration of Conscience," and her firm stand against the tactics of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Staff members were pleased to preview the completed work on May 16. Congratulations, Laura, to you and your colleagues for a job well done!

Tsunami Relief Projects

*Norridgewock
Central Grade
School students
raised \$500.*

*Students from the
Vassalboro
Elementary School
raised over \$2000.*

***“I learned to
believe in myself.”***

*Samantha Gray
Canaan Elementary School*

We host scores of school groups throughout the year and touch the lives of over a thousand children as they tour this remarkable facility. If a visit to the Library serves to inspire even one child, then we are pleased and proud!

*Students from the
the Washington
Street School in
Brewer raised over
\$2000, \$250 of
which was from
selling popcorn!*

*Williams
Elementary School
(Oakland) students
raised \$1200.*

*Mt. Merici students
(Waterville) raised
\$2400.*

“I liked the elephants even though I support the democratic party.”

*Samuel Monkman
Clinton Elementary School*

Editor's Note: Apparently partisan politics is instilled at a young age in Clinton, Maine!

Other Community Service Projects by Maine Students

Members of the Nokomis High School ROTC in Newport provided presents for 27 children at Christmas. The students also made Thanksgiving baskets; visited nursing homes; cleaned up cemeteries; and did arts and crafts with kids.

Central High School in Corinth, represented by Jenny Rollins and Tracy Underhill, bought presents for 19 children during the Christmas holidays and supported the Komen Breast Cancer Race for the Cure.

Students from elementary schools in Brownville and LaGrange held food drives for their communities.



**Jumping Rope
Raises \$ for a
Worthy Cause!**

Athens and Madison elementary school students (left-top) raised money for the American Heart Association as did St. John School students (left-bottom) in Winslow.



Ralph Owen Brewster Follow-up

Dale Whitaker of Aurora, Colorado, recently commented, "I was privileged to work for Senator Smith as her Auburn [Maine] Chairperson in 1972. One of the highlights of that fall was to meet and talk with the Senator and General Lewis during a campaign stop in Androscoggin County. She was a grand lady. Your March 2005 issue mentions that Brewster is portrayed in the recent movie, *The Aviator*. After viewing *The Aviator*, I did research on Senator Brewster to see if he had been portrayed fairly. My research showed that he was not the most honorable of men." Because Mr. Whitaker has asked for further clarification of Smith and Brewster's working relationship, the following excerpt is taken from "W. C. L. (William C. Lewis, Jr.) Notes" binder.

"In November of 1949, Brewster wrote Smith asking her to contribute to the Republican Campaign Fund. She responded that she was not financially able to because she was having to make up the deficit of her own personally financed campaign for the Senate in 1948 and was building a house. She went on to state that even if that were not the case, she had no incentive since she had been the largest individual contributor to the Republican State Finance Committee. She also made observations about the high salaries paid employees of the Republican National Committee and the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee. Brewster replied very curtly and sharply and at the close of his letter made this statement, 'Will you not now put your claws back in their usual velvet lining?' Times Herald Columnist George Dixon in his column of February 15, 1951, in reporting on Brewster's attitude on Senator Smith and her removal from the Investigations Subcommittee wrote: "Publicly, Senator Brewster expresses great fondness and esteem for the lady in question. But privately he feels Maine has one female senator too many. So he refused to be steamed. He listened gravely to the attempts to stir him to indignation against Senator McCarthy. Then he drawled, 'We can't demand too much in the name of fair womanhood. After all, we got Mrs. Smith a new chair that doesn't hurt her nylons.'"

Senator Smith, seated with Ralph Owen Brewster, is shown with other members of the Maine Congressional Delegation in 1952. In back are Charles Nelson and Clifford G. McIntire.

Library Sponsors Plaque

Louis Girlando's senior performance of "Themistocles on the Wooden Wall" at the Maine History Day competition was well-deserving of the trophy sponsored by the MCSL. Louis has now qualified to travel to Maryland to take part in the National History Day contest to be held in June.

Dump Credit Card??

One never knows what can be found in the Library files! While reviewing the Nixon Administration file, a copy of a "Dump Credit Card" was found. The card reads: "Margaret Chase Smith is hereby accorded National Dump Visiting Privileges, making it unnecessary to use the roadside." It was signed by the Kennebunkport Dump Association, Kennebunkport, Maine.

One wonders if President Bush has been accorded this same honor!



Women in Maine History Topic of New Book

Of Place and Gender: Women in Maine History has just been released by the University of Maine Press. A collection of fourteen essays, this volume "offers insight into a rich variety of Maine women, some famous and some ordinary, some intent on changing their lives and their society and others struggling to survive, some confined by family and work to farm or village and others able to travel the world. Taken together, their stories enrich our understanding of Maine, of women, and of history," says editor Marli Weiner, Professor of History at the University of Maine at Orono.

Most of the essays were first written for a conference sponsored by the MCS Library and the Maine Historical Society in 1997. Margaret Chase Smith is mentioned in three of the essays: "Vibrating to an Iron String: Margaret Chase Smith and Her Construction of Gender at the Century's Mid-Point" by Patricia Schmidt; "Serious and Ambitious Career Women: the Portland Business and Professional Women's Club in the 1920s" by Candace Kanes; and "Lillian Nordica and Emma Eames, Downeast Divas" by Norma Johnsen and Allison Hepler.

This 480 page book is a must-read for those who wish to learn about the heritage of Maine women.

Louis Girlando

Last Chance

Register for Skowhegan Fun Day Camp!

A Day in the Life of Margaret Chase
A program for **boys and girls** ages 8-12
June 20-24, 2005
9:00-11:30 a.m.

Children will experience a day in the life of Margaret Chase growing up in Skowhegan in the early 1900s. Play period games, make ice cream, and create crafts. Call Vanessa Caron at the MCSL (474-7133) if you are interested in enrolling.

MCS Essay Contest Winners Announced

After World War II, Senator Smith helped reshape the global balance of power with her support of international programs such as the Marshall Plan and a strong national defense against the Soviet Union. One of the highlights of her career was an extensive world trip to countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. In a post-Cold-War era of international terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and the doctrine of pre-emption, what should American foreign policy be? Of the many essay respondents to this question, eight winners have

“During my service in Congress I have made trips abroad every three or four years. I have done this so that I could see, first-hand, world conditions that present problems of world leadership that have been thrust upon us, whether we like it or not—leadership that cannot be abdicated without abdicating our own freedom and safety.”

Margaret Chase Smith, 1954

been selected. Grace Thompson of Yarmouth High School has been awarded the first place prize of \$500. Said Grace, “I am very interested in international relations and foreign policy, so it was gratifying to be able to carefully consider the direction in which our nation should be headed when it comes to matters of foreign policy.” Grace will be attending the University of Maryland in the fall and plans to major in international relations. She has been an intern in Senator Olympia Snowe’s Portland, Maine, office; is a member of the National Honor Society; and participates in Model United Nations.

Winner of the Essay Contest—Grace Thompson.

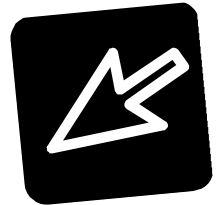
She has taken advantage of an Early Study Program for high school seniors at the University of Southern Maine and volunteers at the Yarmouth Historical Society.

Eliav Bitan of Falmouth High School is the second place winner of \$250.

Mike Rowntree of Berwick Academy is the third place winner of \$125.

Honorable Mention recipients are John Chisholm of Freeport High School; Samantha Grover of Biddeford High School; Sandra Klausmeyer of Sumner Memorial High School; Greta Leber of Marshwood High School; and Michael Whiston of Kennebunk High School. Each received \$25 and a copy of Margaret Chase Smith: In Her Own Words.

***This Next
Generation
is Amazing!***



The true meaning of service became evident as these Winslow High School Service Club members adopted a family at Christmas; served as Salvation Army bell-ringers; raised money for tsunami victims; helped the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter; and volunteered as Big Brothers and Sisters and this is only an abbreviated list of their accomplishments.

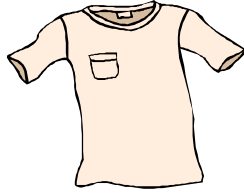
These “Helping Hands” students from the Cascade Brook and Mallett Schools in Farmington collected 3500 pounds of food for the Care and Share Food Closet.

Larry Ross’s Enrichment Resources students at the MCS School from Skowhegan visited the NYC, PA, and DC 9/11 sites. They helped place 5000 wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and sold candles to raise money for education funds for Jay Aubin’s children. Aubin, a MCS School alumnus, was one of the first casualties in the Iraq war.

Students from the Athens Elementary School are active as Consumer Reporters and Bankers as part of the Learning Power program. Through a fund-raising effort, “Pennies for Pets,” they raised and donated over \$500 to the Somerset Humane Society.

UniTel Update

The UniKids Care Club used the money given to the group by the MCSL to sponsor a fund-raising luncheon so that students could attend Special Olympics for the first time wearing special t-shirts. Over \$600 was raised, more than double what was needed. Congratulations, boys and girls!



Entrepreneurship Strong in Maine!

Fourth and fifth-grade students from the Strong Elementary School have created their own school store, **Best Buy Supply**, to raise money for the school playground. In addition, they sent \$100 to Save the Children for tsunami relief and helped kids with leukemia by sponsoring Pennies for Patients. Said the students, “We thank you for asking us to share the history of our school supply store. We have helped kids to be able to have fun on a wonderful playground and we helped the unfortunate victims of the tsunami. Hundreds of people have helped kids all over the world, but Margaret Chase Smith was one of our biggest inspirations. We appreciate her foresight which allows kids today to learn the values of helping others. She helped and she cared. We are only one tiny bit of proof that her legacy has continued.”

Some of the Best Buy Supply “employees” display charts indicating monthly sales. Congratulations, BBS entrepreneurs!

Further Research—From Near and Far

6

Distance did not prevent Beverly Seward and Barbara Metott from traveling from California and New York to learn about their mother’s childhood at Good Will-Hinckley and her association with Margaret Chase Smith. Good Will is the site of the original Chase homestead.

Skowhegan Area High School students, Micheale Poulin and Kelly Bristol, were pleasantly surprised to find material on mobilization of the homefront during World War II. Their history assignment took them to the public library, the internet, and lastly the MCS Library, where sufficient historical items were found for use in their project.

Don Finley’s Skowhegan High School Advanced Placement U. S. History students will be conducting research during several sessions at the Library. In photo above, Christopher Caron, son of Library Administrative Assistant Vanessa Caron, studies one of the scrapbooks.

History Inspires Other Schools to Visit

Students from Clinton Elementary School enjoy an indoor picnic following a three-part tour of the facility—museum, home, and research areas.

Rean McGinley and Government students from Crossroads, an alternative high school program in Skowhegan, visited during the month of May.

MCS Scholarship Award at FMI

Fiber Materials of Biddeford has announced its 2005-2006 scholarship winner. Lauren Dunn of E. Waterboro is a senior at Massabesic High School and plans to attend the University of Southern Maine in the fall, pursuing her interests in business and accounting. Teachers describe Lauren as an intelligent, mature, quietly confident young woman who has been an active honor roll student. She has been involved in baton twirling for thirteen years and coached younger students for the past four. She is a member of the Swim Team and National Honor Society. Lauren has demonstrated valuable community leadership by her involvement in the Massabesic Area Substance Abuse Team (MASAT), and tutors high school students who need academic support. She is a true leader among her peers.

This FMI award is presented in the name of Senator Smith whose lifetime contributions to education and leadership personify the spirit and intent of the scholarship. The recipient selected is chosen based on scholastic abilities, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

MCS Scholarship winner, Lauren Dunn

“Let’s Play” Exhibit Open Until July 1, 2005

This latest Library exhibit focuses on “Pastimes from the Past.” The display offers a look at the way Americans enjoyed their leisure time at the turn of the 20th century. “Let’s Play” explores such topics as toys, the fitness craze, the rise of the sportswoman, America on wheels, and costumes for play. Photographs, documents, and artifacts help in illustrating these topics. Card games, marbles, dolls, checkers, and model soldiers—all were toys used during that generation. Margaret Chase Smith’s own childhood memorabilia will supplement the exhibit.

This traveling exhibit is produced by the Rogers Historical Museum in Rogers, Arkansas, and supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional items were drawn from the collections of Skowhegan History House, the L. C. Bates Museum, and the Maine State Museum.

Life-size cutout figure of Margaret Chase as a teenager in swimwear is shown next to glass case filled with sports items from the early 1900s.

Eisenhower Library Sends Compliments

Said James Leyerzapf at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas, “He [Eisenhower] enjoyed his visits to the state of Maine and thought highly of Senator Smith. And we wish to compliment you on your exceptionally well-done newsletter!”

Photos of Eisenhower’s visit are still on display.

“Gateways to Gardens” Program Kicks Off on July 8

The Central Kennebec Heritage Council recently received two grants from the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Community Foundation totaling \$1988 to support the upcoming program “Gateways to Gardens: Maine’s Historic Landscape Legacy.” Landscape Architect Theresa Mattor will kick-off the program on Friday, July 8th at 7:00 p.m in Prescott Hall on the Good Will-Hinckley campus, Route 201 in Hinckley. The “Gateways to Gardens” program will introduce Maine’s landscape legacy to the community through the development of period gardens, historical plantings, lectures, revised landscape interpretation, new exhibits and hands-on activities at local heritage sites and museums. The community is invited to see these new projects during an Open House on Saturday, July 9th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The following sites will be open to visitors on this special day: Fairfield History House, L.C. Bates Museum in Hinckley, Macartney House in Oakland, the MCSL in Skowhegan, Norridgewock Historical Society, and the Skowhegan History House.

The Library’s theme, “**Everything’s Coming Up Roses,**” will feature a new exhibit on MCS and the rose, as her trademark, as the national flower, in language, and as gifts. For more information, please call the Margaret Chase Smith Library, 207-474-7133.

“Trivia” Answer from March Newsletter—The answer is on the cover under the title story. Louis B. Mayer wanted to make Margaret Chase Smith into a movie star. Congratulations to John Youney for being the first to respond with the correct answer and location. The June trivia question is: After viewing previous newsletters relative to Senator Smith’s World Trip, this question should be easy to answer. **How many foreign countries did Senator Smith visit during her World Trip?** The answer is somewhere in this newsletter. Be the first to respond with the correct answer and where you found it in the newsletter. You might win a prize!

“While I have been a life-long Democrat, I was an admirer of Senator Smith, the kind of Republican who is sorely missed these days: one who puts country and the commonweal ahead of ideology. There are ‘dames’ and grand dames, and she was definitely the latter.”
Harrison Tao, 2005

Editor’s Note: Mr. Tao had contacted the Library in search of information about Fannie Chase.

The third grade class at the Guilford Elementary School raised \$136 for tsunami relief which was matched by the MCSL. The boys and girls were asked to do something “important” with the money. Subsequently, they purchased twenty, 3 lb. hams for the local food cupboard at Easter. Two students from each 3rd grade class were invited to the Library to talk about their fund-raising project and the essays they wrote about community service. In photo above, they listen intently to Dr. Richards as he shows a sample scrapbook of the more than 530 in the collection. **See pages 3, 5, and 6 to see what other service projects Maine students are undertaking.**

“She helped and she cared. We are only one tiny bit of proof that her legacy has continued.”

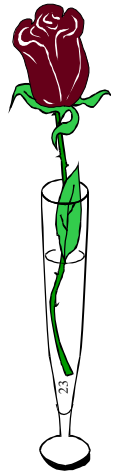
Strong Elementary School students, May, 2005. See story p. 6.

"Friends" newsletter is published by the Margaret Chase Smith Library.
Editor: Dr. Gregory P. Gallant; Coordinator: Angela Stockwell, with the assistance of Vanessa Caron, Lynnette King, Sheri Leahan, Crystal Perkins, Byron Pooler, and David Richards. The Library is a non-profit research center and museum of 20th-century political artifacts committed to bringing the ideals of Senator Smith's career in public service to the people of Maine and the nation.
Hours: Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Telephone: 207-474-7133; FAX: 207-474-8878;
e-mail: angies@mcslibrary.org; gpg@mcslibrary.org; or davidr@mcslibrary.org.
Web Address: www.mcslibrary.org

Friends of the Library Newsletter

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